

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 3 are amended and claims 12-16 are added. Support for claims 12-16 can be found at least in paragraphs [0052] and [0053] of the specification. No new matter has been added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Primary Examiner Healy and Examiner Wood during the May 25 personal interview are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Abstract is objected to for containing improper content. A substitute Abstract is attached hereto. It is respectfully requested that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,625,356 to Ticknor et al. (hereinafter "Ticknor"). The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

As discussed during the personal interview, Ticknor discloses a platform 605 which moves pivotally in order to connect the desired waveguides together. Nowhere does Ticknor disclose transverse movement of the platform. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Ticknor fails to disclose all the features of amended claim 1 which recites, inter alia, that the movement of the movable part is substantially transverse.

With regard to claim 8, as discussed during the personal interview, in Ticknor, the waveguides 602, 603, 612, 613, 802, 803, 812 and 813 are not part of one structural layer. Ticknor discloses an upper layer waveguide 902 and lower layer waveguide 901 and accordingly requires the use of a pivotally moving platform 605 or 905. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Ticknor fails to disclose the combination of features recited in

claim 8, including inter alia, forming a stationary input part, a stationary output part and a movable part in a structural layer.

Thus, Applicants submit that Ticknor fails to disclose all the features of claims 1 and 8 as well as all the features of claims 9-11, which depend from claim 8. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1 and 8-11 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ticknor. The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

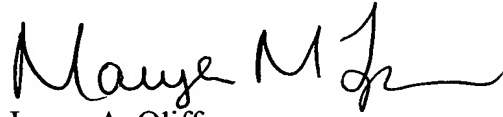
As discussed above, Applicants submit that Ticknor fails to disclose all the features of claim 1 from which claims 2-7 depend. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Ticknor fails to render obvious the subject matter of claims 2-7. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-7 be withdrawn.

Applicants note that only one of the three PTO-1449 sheets submitted with the February 26, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement was returned with the April 6 Office Action. Applicants acknowledge that some of the references listed on the remaining two PTO-1449 sheets may have already been considered. However, Applicants note that not all the references listed on the remaining two PTO-1449 sheets were either cited by the Examiner or listed on one of the other PTO-1449 sheets. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the remaining two PTO-1449 sheets and the PTO date-stamped receipt evidencing the submission are attached. It is requested that the Examiner consider all the references listed thereon and return to Applicants' representative the signed and initialed PTO-1449 sheets.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MMI/ccs

Attachments:

Abstract
February 26, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement with 2 PTO-1449 sheets
PTO date stamped receipt

Date: May 28, 2004

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